

We claim:

1. A cement composition for plugging a ceramic honeycomb consisting of a plastically shapeable blend comprising a ceramic powder, a water-soluble alkali metal silicate, and water.
2. A cement composition in accordance with claim 1 wherein the blend is essentially free of ceramic reinforcing fibers.
3. A cement composition in accordance with claim 1 wherein the alkali metal silicate is potassium silicate.
4. A cement in accordance with claim 1 wherein the ceramic powder consists essentially one or more powders selected from the group consisting of cordierite, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, aluminum titanate, clay, talc, alumina, and mixtures thereof.
5. A cement in accordance with claim 1 wherein the blend consists essentially of ceramic powder and an alkali metal silicate solution.
6. A method for selectively plugging channels of a ceramic honeycomb comprising: introducing into the channels a plastically shapeable cement composition comprising a blend of a ceramic powder, a water-soluble alkali metal silicate, and water; and drying the cement composition to form solid plugs.
7. A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the blend is essentially free of ceramic reinforcing fibers.
8. A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the alkali metal silicate is potassium silicate.

9. A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the ceramic powder consists essentially one or more powders selected from the group consisting of cordierite, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, aluminum titanate, clay, talc, alumina, and mixtures thereof.

10. A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the blend consists essentially of ceramic powder and an alkali metal silicate solution.